

JUN 17 1993

Jeffrey A. Lybarger, M.D., MPH  
Director, Division of Health Studies  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
1600 Clifton Road, NE  
Mailstop E31  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Lybarger:

With the report of the blood lead study conducted in Granite City, Madison and Venice, Illinois, now approaching completion, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) can be proud of the excellent support it has provided to these communities. The Region V office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to have been a part of this important project, and we hope that ATSDR and Region V can continue to cooperate in the participation of such projects in the future.

EPA wishes to be fully supportive of the ATSDR report on the blood lead study when it is released. We feel that we can best do this if we are completely familiar with the data and the report before it is released. We are certain that EPA will receive inquiries and be asked to publicly comment on the report. Our ability to respond in a creditable manner necessitates that we examine the data set first hand, and we need to do this as soon as possible. Of course, we would also appreciate advance notice of any public meeting conducted by ATSDR or the Illinois Department of Public Health related to the report.

Also, as ATSDR knows, EPA is in the process of refining the Integrated Exposure Uptake Biokinetic Model (IEUBK Model), and is currently conducting validation exercises on the nearly complete working version of the Model. The blood lead data collected by ATSDR would be very valuable to the EPA Technical Review Workgroup for Lead at this time, and would enable an evaluation of the Model behavior in the urban environment. This exercise will be the most meaningful if it can be carried out in the next few weeks.

EPA is therefore formally requesting that ATSDR provide EPA with specific biological and other data collected at the Granite City, Illinois Superfund site. This letter describes the specific data which EPA is requesting, summarizes how EPA intends

to use the data, and addresses the concerns ATSDR has about confidentiality. EPA believes that it is possible to conduct an analysis of the site data without compromising the personal privacy of the citizens who participated in the study.

EPA presently has a summary of the environmental data collected at these communities for the study. The data has no geographical locators, and we are not even certain which data belongs to which area. Thus, the data is essentially useless. EPA is requesting the following data collected by ATSDR and/or their contractors in Granite City, Madison and Venice, Illinois:

- \* The environmental data made available to ATSDR by EPA on lead in environmental media at the home of each individual sampled, in a form that can be paired with the biological data. EPA is specifically not interested in obtaining data which would identify individuals, such as names, addresses or house numbers. Therefore, geographical locators for the data may be provided on any scale acceptable to ATSDR - streets, blocks, etc. - in a manner to retain confidentiality.
- \* The exterior x-ray fluorescence (XRF) data on exterior paint.
- \* The paired survey data, which contains the age and sex of the resident child tested for blood lead and information of the child's mouthing behavior, time spent in the home and outdoors, as well as the age of the house, condition of painted surfaces, and other useful pieces of information.
- \* The correlated blood lead data.

EPA Region V intends to use the environmental and biological data to support the following analyses:

1. Evaluation of the performance of EPA's draft IEUBK Model for predicting children's blood lead levels from environmental data in an urban setting. This work will be done by the national EPA Technical Review Workgroup for Lead, of which Patricia Van Leeuwen of my staff is a member.
2. Perform a statistical comparison of the measured blood lead concentrations with those predicted by the IEUBK Model at this site.
3. Potentially use the IEUBK Model to evaluate the determination of the soil clean-up levels for lead at the NL Industries Superfund site, Granite City, Illinois.

EPA understands and intends to respect ATSDR's desire that individual medical data not be released. Accordingly, EPA

requests that no individual identifiers, such as names, addresses or house numbers be included in the data set. EPA also appreciates that the paired environmental data are unique to each home, and that individuals could potentially be identified by these environmental "fingerprints". EPA does not intend to make any special effort to identify individuals in this way, and we do not intend to release the paired data set or report the data in a form that would allow anyone else to do so.

If ATSDR determines that there is some additional barrier which prevents the release of the blood lead or environmental lead data to EPA, EPA Region V would be willing to detail someone from the Region to ATSDR to analyze and review the Granite City data if that is a more acceptable option to ATSDR.

EPA appreciates ATSDR's support of our mission to protect human health and the environment. We anticipate our joint efforts will result in the best decision for the residents of Granite City and the neighboring communities. Due to our severe time constraints, we hope to receive the data package or approval for an immediate detail to ATSDR in the next week.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Lynn Traub  
Acting Associate Director  
Waste Management Division  
Office of Superfund

cc David Ullrich  
Gershon Bergeisen, OERR

USER/SHARE/ATSDR REQ

TSS

SD  
6/14/93

16/11/93  
Gershon  
6/14/93

REC for JT  
6-17-93

PVC  
6/17/93